



# 2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Customer Focus

Brown trails of manure running across white snow and down the steep hillside of this all grass dairy operation created much more than an eyesore; they also posed a problem for the brook nearby.

As local photographers documented the brown ooze winding down the hill like some giant tarantula threatening to enter the two busy roads that intersect there, complaints poured in. This was not only an eyesore that lasted until early summer when the tall hay obscured the trails; it was a threat to the Connecticut River, an American Heritage River located in a four-state watershed and New England's largest river ecosystem.

The farm's manure pit - actually just a large hole in the ground - was inaccessible in winter, causing the pit to overflow. The nutrients in the manure, which normally would have been hauled away and composted at a nearby organic vegetable farm, were lost.

In the fall of 2000, the limited resource farmers who operated the dairy farm signed an EQIP contract to carry out resource protecting conservation practices. A drain was installed around the barn to divert clean water away from the barnyard. Next, a septic tank with a filter was placed to collect milk house waste. An outlet pipe now drains the waste into a newly installed two-tiered filter strip with a stone trench. A combination waste storage pad and heavy use 'barnyard' pad was constructed out of concrete to contain the manure.

Besides providing easy access to the manure pit, any pollutant threats to water quality have been negated by the installation of this EQIP funded project.

## Vermont Summary

### Overview

In Vermont, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Leveraging state with federal dollars allowed funding for 41 projects in eight high priority watersheds. The Vermont state legislature made possible the funding of 13 projects that would have not been possible with federal money alone. Because of these additional dollars, most farmers received 85% cost share assistance rather than the 75% they would normally have received. In fiscal year 2001, 141 EQIP applications requesting federal cost-share funds totaling \$4,611,550 were processed. The Vermont allocation for financial assistance addressed 70 contracts totaling \$1,003,320. There was a shortfall of \$3,608,230 to meet client needs for FY2001.

### Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Vermont through eight Geographic Priority Areas. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covered 21,325 farm acres and 8,738 cropland acres. Projects included Lake Champlain Basin; Hudson River Basin; Lake Memphremagog Basin; Connecticut River Basin; Lower Lake Champlain/Otter Creek Basin; Lower Missisquoi Basin and the St Albans Bay/Grand Isle Basin.

In addition to financial assistance, nearly \$6,400 in EQIP education funds was awarded in grants to organizations and groups promoting resource conservation throughout the state.

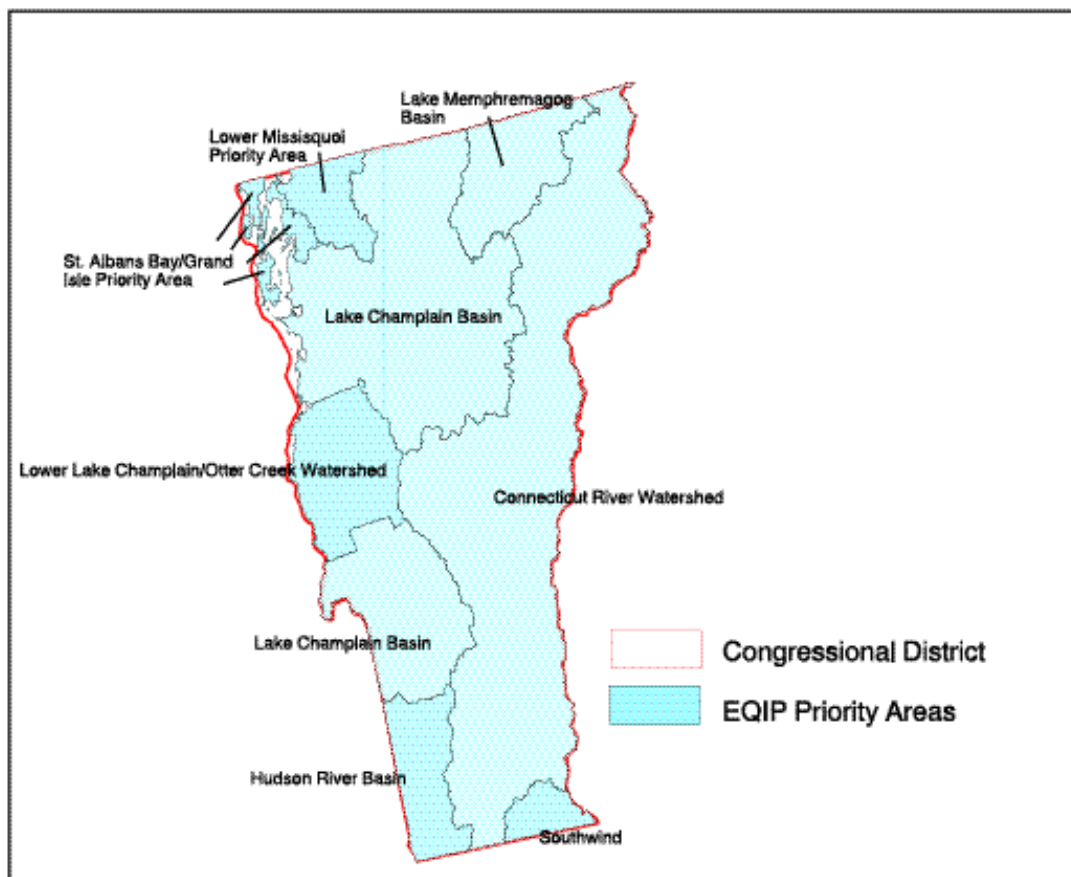
### Outlook

If participation were a measure of success of this program, Vermont would report tremendous success with EQIP. The total unmet need requests from clients are \$3,608,230 in FY 2001. Discouraged with the process, some farmers chose not to apply for EQIP funds. There remains a need for continued program support to address the significant resource concerns in Vermont's river basins.

### State Contact

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## Vermont EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



## Vermont EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$1,003,320	70	\$5,372,891	647
	0	0	0	
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$1,003,320</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>\$5,372,891</b>	<b>647</b>

Note: the above total of contracts includes FSA contracts. FSA issues a separate contract number for each piece of land included in an approved application which has a different farm number. Many applicants had multiple contract documents.

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